

LIBRARY

Hetton Urban District Council.



**REPORT OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER
OF HEALTH**

FOR THE YEAR 1942.


L. A. M. JOHNSTON,
B.Sc., M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Hetton Urban District Council.

REPORT OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER
OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR 1942.

L. A. M. JOHNSTON,
B.Sc., M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.



Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2017 with funding from
Wellcome Library

<https://archive.org/details/b29425839>

Mr. Chairman and Members,

I beg to submit herewith my Second Annual Report on the Health, Sanitary Conditions and Vital Statistics for the District being for the year 1942.

The Report of the Senior Sanitary Inspector is incorporated in the Section "Sanitary Circumstances of the Area."

For reasons of national security it is requested that the figures for Vital Statistics be regarded as strictly confidential.

I have much pleasure in gratefully acknowledging the kindness and willing co-operation of the Council and colleagues on the staff from whom at all times the Health Department has ever received ready assistance in the futhering of their work.

I am,

Mr. Chairman and Members,

Your obedient servant,

LILIAN A. M. JOHNSTON.

To the Chairman and Members

Hetton Urban District Council.

Public Health Officers of the Local Authority.



These are the same as in 1941, excepting that an additional fully-trained Nurse is now employed at the Isolation Hospital; the staff consisting therefore of Matron and Two Nurses.



Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area.

Area in acres—4527 acres.

Registrar General's estimate of resident population—mid 1942—17,640.

Number of inhabited houses (end of 1942) according to Rate Books—
5,234.

Rateable Value—£60,329.

Sum represented by a penny rate—£220/13/2.



Social Conditions and Chief Industries.

The chief industry in the district is coal mining. Unemployment became still further reduced towards the end of the year as men and women became absorbed in war industries and enrolled on active service. The Registrar General's estimate of the general population for mid-year 1942 is 17,640, is apparently based on the assumption of a considerable number of persons having left the district for above occupations.

Vital Statistics.

Births and Birth Rate.

The nett number of live births (as corrected by the Registrar-General for outward and inward transfers) during 1942 was 367 as compared with 319 for 1941.

Sex and legitimacy classification are shown thus:

Live Births		Total	Male	Female	Birth Rate per 1000 of the estimated population
	{ Legitimate	355	167	188	20.80
	{ Illegitimate	12	10	2	

The Registrar-General states the Birth Rate per 1,000 population in England and Wales (live births) was 15.8 for 1942.

The following table shows (1) the total number of births (2) the number of males born (3) the number of females born (4) the birth rate per 1,000 population and (5) the total increase of population (i.e. the excess of births over deaths) for 1942, as compared with the years 1937-1941.

Year	Total births	Males	Females	Rate per 1,000	Total increase
1937	354	181	173	18.50	134
1938	393	200	193	20.10	161
1939	355	183	172	18.34	153
1940	328	160	160	17.53	98
1941	319	157	162	17.53	109
1942	367	177	190	20.80	170

Still Births—During 1942 there were 13 still births in the district.

Still Births		Total	Male	Female	
	{ Legitimate	13	7	6	giving a Rate of 34.21 per 1000 total (live and still births) births
	{ Illegitimate	0	0	0	

There is a still birth rate per 1,000 population of 0.74 in the district as compared with 0.54 for England and Wales.

Deaths and Death Rate.

The Registrar-General reports that after correction for outward and inward transfers, 197 residents in the Hetton Urban District died, being 107 males and 90 females.

The death rate, therefore, corrected for outward and inward transfers and including deaths from all causes and at all ages was 11.16, the population being estimated at 17,640. That for England and Wales was 11.6.

Locally compiled and correct figures are as follows :—

During 1942 there were 145 deaths registered as having occurred within the district, being 76 males and 69 females. Of these one female did not normally reside in the area, therefore, 75 males and 68 females having their permanent residence within the district died therein. 31 males and 22 females whose permanent residence was within the area died outside it. The total number of deaths therefore, corrected for outward and inward transfers, is 197, being 107 males and 90 females.

Total Deaths under Five Years (corrected locally).

During 1942, 22 children died under the age of five years. Therefore 11.17 per cent of the total deaths was of deaths of children under five years of age.

Deaths in Institutions.

Of the 53 residents who died outside the district four died in private houses, 3 died in the pits and 2 outside. The remaining 44 died in Institutions, as follows :

Sunderland Royal Infirmary	...	...	18
Durham County Mental Hospital, Sedgefield			3
Wolsingham Sanatorium	...	...	1
Helmington Row Sanatorium	...	...	1
Sunderland Children's Hospital	...	...	3
Princess Mary Maternity Hospital, Newcastle			3
Relton House, Chester-le-Street		...	8
Hospital for Infectious Diseases, Sunderland			2
37, Crossgate, Durham	...	...	2
Slough P.A.I.	...	...	1
Leeholme, Easington...	...	...	2

2 residents in the district died in the Rainton Bridge Hospital, therefore of the total 197 deaths of residents, 51 or 24.3 per cent occurred in Institutions.

Deaths from Puerperal Causes. (Headings 29 and 30 of the Registrar-General's short list).

There was one death among women from puerperal sepsis but none from other puerperal causes, viz :

	Deaths	Rate per 1000 live births	Rate per 1000 total (live & still) births
No. 29—Puerperal Sepsis	1	2.73	2.63
No. 30—Other Puerperal Causes	0	0.00	0.00
Total	1	2.73	2.63

The following Comparative Figures are available for England and Wales :—

Death Rate per 1000 total (live and still)		
births from Puerperal Sepsis ...	...	0.42
Death Rate per 1000 total (live and still)		
births from Other Puerperal Causes ...	...	1.59
<hr/>		
Total ...	...	2.01

Notifications Puerperal Fever and Pyrexia		
per 1000 total Births (live and still) England and Wales ...		12.61
Hetton Urban District	...	7.89

Death Rate of Infants under One Year.

18 children died during 1942 before attaining the age of 1 year, being 10 legitimate males and 8 legitimate females.

During 1941, 19 children died during this age period, which figure included one illegitimate male.

The following table shows the death rate of infants under one year of age according to the total number of live births and legitimacy for the years 1937—1942 :—

	All Infants		Legitimate Infants		Illegitimate Infants	
	per 1000 live births		per 1000 legitimate live births		per 1000 illegitimate live births	
1937	65.0	.....	63.0	.....	111.0
1938	83.9	.....	82.9	.....	—
1939	36.3	.....	37.0	.....	—
1940	80.9	.....	76.1	.....	250.0
1941	59.00	.....	58.64	.....	83.33
1942	49.05	.....	50.70	.....	—

The death rate of children under 1 year of age per 1000 live births in England and Wales for the year ending 1942, was 49.

It will be noted from Table II. that the largest number of infantile deaths occurred in Easington Lane Ward, for 7 died in Easington Lane, 5 in Hetton, 3 in Hetton Downs, and 3 in Rainton and Moorsley.

For the purpose of these and following statistics the population of the various wards has been taken as follows :—

Easington Lane	5261
Hetton	4785
Hetton Downs	5538
Rainton and Moorsley	2056
<hr/>	
Total ...	17640

The ratio of infantile deaths per 1000 population is :—

Easington Lane	1.33
Hetton	1.04
Hetton Downs	0.56
Rainton and Moorsley	1.45

Of the 18 infants who died under one year of age, the cause of death was attributable to congenital malformation, prematurity and debility in 10 cases, giving a percentage of 55.5

The following table shows in detail the amount and causes of infantile deaths under one year of age during 1942 and also the number of deaths at the various ages, viz— 9 under one week, 2 between 1 and 2 weeks, 1 between 2 and 3 weeks, 2 between 3 and 4 weeks, 0 between 1 and 3 months, 4 between 3 months and 6 months and 0 between 6 months and 9 months, a total of 18.

Since the total deaths from all causes and at all ages in the district was 197, 9.1 per cent. of the total deaths were of children under one year of age. Of these under one year of age 26.3 per cent were under one week and 47.4 per cent under four weeks of age.

Infant Mortality during the year ended 31st December, 1942.

Nett deaths from stated causes at various ages under 1 year of age.

Causes of Death			Under 1 Week	1-2 Weeks	2-3 Weeks	3-4 Weeks	Total under 4 Weeks	4 Weeks and under 3 Months	3 Months and under 6 Months	6 Months and under 9 Months	9 Months and under 12 Months	Total Deaths under 1 Year
All Causes {	Certified ...	...	9	2	1	2	14	0	4	0	...	18
	Uncertified	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Small-pox	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Chicken-pox	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Measles	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Whooping-cough	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Diphtheria and Croup	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Erysipelas	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Tubercular Meningitis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Abdominal Tuberculosis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Other Tuberculous Diseases	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Meningitis (not Tuberculous)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Convulsions	...	...	...	1	...	1	2	...	...	...	...	2
Laryngitis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Bronchitis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Pneumonia (all forms)	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	1	...	...	2
Diarrhœa	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Enteritis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	1
Gastritis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Syphilis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Rickets	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Suffocation, overlying	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Injury at Birth...	...	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	1
Atelectasis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Congenital Malformations	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	1
Premature Birth	...	6	1	...	...	...	7	...	...	...	...	7
Atrophy, Debility and Marasmus	...	...	2	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	2
Influenza	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Other causes	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	2
			9	2	1	2	14	0	4	0	0	18

Nett Live Births— Legitimate.

Males. Females.

Illegitimate

Males. Females.

Corrected as per Registrar General ...

} 167 188 10 2 = 367

Nett Deaths—

10 8 0 0 = 18

During 1942 there were 170 deaths certified by registered medical practitioners (three of the deceased so certified having post mortems performed on them). 13 by the Coroner after inquest (without post mortem); 3 by the Coroner after post mortem and inquest, 3 by the Coroner after post mortem without inquest, and 8 uncertified.

The ratio of deaths (at all ages and corrected) in the various wards is shown in the following two tables, the first showing the number of deaths which occurred in each ward (and in the district) during each of the four quarters, i.e. Seasonal incidence, and the second showing the age distribution of the deaths in the various wards.

Table I. Seasonal Incidence.

Ward	1st Quarter		2nd Quarter		3rd Quarter		4th Quarter		Total
Easington Lane	19	...	17	...	13	...	11	...	60
Hetton	21	...	15	...	16	...	8	...	60
Hetton Downs	16	...	15	...	7	...	15	...	53
Rainton and Moorsley	7	...	7	...	4	...	6	...	24
Totals	63	...	54	...	40	...	40	...	197

Table II. Age Incidence.

Ward.	Under 1 year.	1-2 years.	2-5 years.	5-15 years.	15-25 years.	25-45 years.	45-65 years.	65-75 years.	75 years & over.	Total.
Easington Lane	7	1	1	4	3	8	19	6	11	60
Hetton	5	...	...	1	1	4	16	16	17	60
Hetton Downs	3	1	...	...	3	7	14	15	10	53
Rainton and Moorsley	3	1	...	1	1	1	5	3	9	24
Total	18	3	1	6	8	20	54	40	47	97

During the year under consideration there were 2 deaths from the chief zymotic diseases, giving a death rate per 1000 population, from this cause of 0.11.

There were 2 deaths from 'infantile' diarrhoea (under 2 years of age). giving a death rate per 1000 live births of 5.5 compared with 5.2 for England and Wales.

In 1941 there were 5 deaths from the chief zymotic diseases, equivalent to a death rate of 0.27 per 1000 population.

Death Rates in Hetton Urban District per 1000 population
as compared with those for
England and Wales. He.—Hetton Urban Dist.

He.—Hetton Urban Dist.
E-W.—England and Wales

Causes of Death in Hetton Urban District during 1942.

Causes of Death.				Male		Female.
All Causes	....			107	....	90
1. Typhoid and paratyphoid fevers	....			0	....	0
2. Cerebro-spinal fever	....	....		1	....	1
3. Scarlet Fever	....	....	....	0	....	0
4. Whooping Cough	....	....	....	0	....	0
5. Diphtheria	....	....	..	2	....	0
6. Tuberculosis of respiratory system	....			6	....	4
7. Other forms of tuberculosis	....	...		1	....	2
8. Syphilitic Diseases	..	....	....	0	...	1
9. Influenza	....	....	....	0	....	0
10. Measles	....	....	....	0	....	0
11. Acute Polio-Myelitis and Polio-Encephalitis				0	...	0
12. Acute Infantile Encephalitis	...	...		0	...	0
13. Cancer of Buccal Cavity and Oesophagus (Male)					....
Uterus (Female)				1	....	2
14. Cancer of Stomach and Duodenum	....			4	...	5
15. Cancer of Breast	...	....	...	0	...	2
16. Cancer, all other sites	...	...		9	...	4
17. Diabetes...	....	....	....	0	....	2
18. Intra-cranial vascular lesions	....	....		14	....	8
19. Heart disease	....	....	....	19	....	14
20. Other diseases of Circulatory System	....			2	....	1
21. Bronchitis	....	....	....	3	....	4
22. Pneumonia	...	....	....	1	....	1
23. Other respiratory diseases	....	....		4	....	2
24. Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum	....			1	...	1
25. Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	....	....		1	....	1
26. Appendicitis	....	....	....	0	....	2
27. Other digestive diseases	....	....		3	....	4
28. Nephritis	....	....	....	3	....	4
29. Puerperal and Post-Abortive Sepsis	...			0	....	1
30. Other maternal causes	....	....		0	....	0
31. Premature Birth	....	....	...	4	....	4
32. Congenital debility, malformations, etc.	...			2	....	3
33. Suicide	....	....	...	1	....	2
34. Road Traffic Accidents	....	...		1	....	0
35. Other violent causes	....	....		6	...	1
36. All other causes	...	....	....	18	..	14

The following table shows the Birth-rates, Death-rates, Analysis of Mortality, Maternal Death-rates, and Case-rates for certain Infectious Diseases for the year 1942, for England and Wales, 126 County Boroughs and Great Towns including London, 148 Smaller Towns. (Resident Population 25,000 to 50,000), compared with those for Hetton-le-Hole.

Birth-rates, Civilian Death-rates, Analysis of Mortality, Maternal Mortality and Case rates for certain Infectious diseases in the Year 1942. Provisional figures based on Weekly and Quarterly Returns

	England and Wales.	126 County Boro's. and Great Towns including London.	148 Smaller Towns (Resident populations 25,000 to 50,000 at 1931 Census).	London Administra- tive County.	Hetton Urban District.
Rates per 1,000 Civilian Population.					
BIRTHS—					
Live 	15.8	17.3	18.4	14.0	20.80
Still 	0.54	0.66	0.62	0.48	0.74
DEATHS—					
All Causes 	11.6	13.3	12.1	13.9	11.16
Typhoid and Paratyphoid fevers } ...	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Scarlet Fever 	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Whooping Cough 	0.02	0.03	0.02	0.04	0.00
Diphtheria 	0.05	0.06	0.04	0.02	0.11
Influenza 	0.09	0.09	0.10	0.07	0.00
Smallpox 	—	—	—	—	—
Measles 	0.01	0.02	0.01	0.01	0.00
Rates per 1,000 Live Births.					
Deaths under 1 year of age 	49	59	46	60	49.05
Deaths from Diarrhoea and Enteritis under 2 years of age } ...	5.2	7.5	4.8	8.6	5.5
Rates per 1,000 Civil Population					
NOTIFICATIONS—					
Typhoid Fever 	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.02	0.00
Paratyphoid Fever 	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.00
Cerebro Spinal Fever 	0.14	0.17	0.12	0.15	0.06
Scarlet Fever 	2.19	2.49	2.34	1.86	2.38
Whooping Cough 	1.73	1.97	1.58	2.72	0.28
Diphtheria 	1.05	1.35	0.91	0.76	1.13
Erysipelas 	0.30	0.36	0.26	0.43	0.68
Smallpox 	0.00	0.00	—	0.00	0.00
Measles 	7.46	9.27	7.39	8.62	16.44
Pneumonia 	1.07	1.30	0.94	0.94	1.93
Rates per 1,000 Total Births(i.e. Live & Still)					
MATERNAL MORTALITY— (excluding Abortion)					
Puerperal Infection (No. 147)	0.42	} Not available			2.63
Others 	1.59				0.00
Total 	2.01				2.63
NOTIFICATIONS—					
Puerperal fever 	12.61	15.94	10.80	3.10	7.89
Puerperal pyrexia 				17.69	

Causes of Death.

(a) Tuberculosis.

There were 10 deaths from pulmonary tuberculosis and three from non-pulmonary tuberculosis during 1942, being equivalent to a death rate, per 1000 population, of 0.56 from the pulmonary form and 0.17 from the non-pulmonary.

Comparative Table :

Year	No. of Deaths from Pulmonary Tuberculosis	Death Rate per 1000 population from Pulmonary Tuberculosis England and Wales	Death Rate per 1000 population from Pulmonary Tuberculosis Hetton Urban District	No. of Deaths from Non Pulmonary Tuberculosis	Death Rate per 1000 population from Non Pulmonary Tuberculosis England and Wales	Death Rate per 1000 population from Non Pulmonary Tuberculosis Hetton Urban District
1937	13	.58	.66	3	.11	.15
1938	12	.53	.62	5	.16	.26
1939	11	Not available	.57	2	Not available	.14
1940	13	" "	.70	3	" "	.16
1941	7	" "	.38	0	" "	.00
1942	10	" "	.56	3	" "	.17

(b) Heart Disease.

Heart disease was, as in former years, the chief cause of death throughout the area. 33 persons, being 19 males and 14 females were certified to have died from heart disease. This is equivalent to 16.77 per cent. of the total deaths and a mortality rate of 1.87 per 1000 population. It may be noted that this is lower than in any year for which figures are available.

Comparative Table :

Year	Total Deaths All Causes	Deaths due to Heart Disease			Death Rate per 1000 population		Percentage Total Deaths due to Heart Disease
					All Causes	Heart Disease	
		M	F				
1937	220	40	27	19	11.5	2.34	20.91
1938	232	53	33	20	11.9	2.72	22.85
1939	202	42	24	18	10.5	2.18	20.79
1940	230	42	20	22	12.33	2.25	18.26
1941	210	43	20	23	11.55	2.31	20.48
1942	197	33	19	14	11.16	1.87	16.77

Rheumatism is one of the most common causes of heart disease and has always been fairly prevalent throughout the district. The vital importance of this should always be borne in mind and most particularly the necessity of medical treatment for even slight rheumatism in the young.

Cancer.

27 deaths—being 14 males and 13 females, were due to cancer. This is equivalent to 13.7 per cent of the total deaths, or a mortality rate of 1.53 per 1000 population.

The following table shows the number of deaths due to cancer in Hetton Urban District and the mortality rate from this disease in the years 1937—1942.

Year	Number of Deaths			Mortality Rate per 1000 pop
	Male	Female	Total	
1937	11	15	26	1.35
1938	18	17	35	1.80
1939	13	16	29	1.50
1940	15	17	32	1.71
1941	14	11	25	1.37
1942	14	13	27	1.53

Fear of operation and even a horror of diagnosis of cancer prevents a number of people from seeking medical advice early in the disease. Yet the efficacy of treatment, if given early, is steadily increasing. If all with any abnormality of health or unexplained swellings, particularly after the age of 45, would seek advice early many lives could be saved and much suffering avoided.

Treatment by radium is available at Sunderland Royal Infirmary whilst the large clinic for the North of England is at the Royal Victoria Infirmary, Newcastle.

The following shows the sites of lesion, sex and age distribution of those who have died during 1942 from cancer as compiled from local returns.

Site.	Males—Ages.	Females—Ages.	Site	Males—Ages.	Females—Ages
Stomach...	55, 65	70, 72, 78	Liver ...	53, 77, 49	
Nose ...	77		Caecum		64
Lung ...	55, 57		Pancreas		45
Bladder...	69		Rectum...		64
Spine ...	54		Brain ...	75, 82, 73	65
Breast ...		49, 73	Colon ...		55
Uterus ...		61, 78	Tongue...		70
Eye ...		76			

General Provision of Health Services in the Area.

Public Health Officers of the Authority.

See commencement of Report.

Development or changes in the following Services.

Laboratory Facilities.

As before.

Ambulance Facilities.

As before.

Nursing in the Home.

As before.

Clinics and Treatment Centres.

There is no change in the services provided, all being maintained and administered by the County Council.

Hospitals — Public and Voluntary.

There is no change in the services provided.

Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.

Water Supply.

The general standard of purity of the water supply in the area is very high, the major portion of the supply being by the Council's water undertaking, the water being drawn from limestone strata at a great depth below the surface, and, therefore, although hard, very unlikely to receive any contamination. Some outlying portions of the area are, however, supplied from independent sources, Moorsley being supplied by the Colliery Company with water pumped to reservoirs in that area. This water has from time to time been found to be below a reasonable standard of purity and has, therefore, for some years been treated by chlorination. It is frequently sampled, both by the Colliery Company's analyst and our own staff and, therefore, variations in the purity are quickly noted and dealt with, and, generally speaking, during the year under review, some improvement was noted in the results of the bacteriological examinations. The Raintons are supplied direct by the Durham County Water Board and the supply is wholesome and adequate, apart from certain higher portions of that district where complaints have been received from time to time of water shortage.

Samples are taken from all three supplies at least once monthly throughout the year, and more frequently in cases where variations in the supply made the checking of previous samples necessary. It is very satisfactory to note that, apart from the variations in the Moorsley supply it may be said that generally the results indicated that a good supply of wholesome water was available throughout the district. Towards the end of the year under review arrangements were made for the provision of a chlorination plant for the Council's own undertaking, and this would have been in operation before the end of the year but for the delay experienced in obtaining the necessary apparatus. The work was however completed, and the plant in operation early in 1943.

Drainage and Sewerage.

The drains and sewers have been well maintained during the year, and the Glebe Sewage Works under the control of the Council, continue to function satisfactorily. It was necessary to serve informal notices with respect to 38 defective drains, and these were, despite war-time conditions, attended to promptly, it only being necessary in 2 cases to follow up the informal notices with Statutory notices.

Closet Accommodation.

The desire to obtain conversions from ash-closets to water-closets is still evident in the district, despite war-time conditions, and numerous enquiries were received during the year regarding this. Whilst the work was not carried out in every case owing to prohibitive cost, 8 ash-closets were converted into water-closets, and 3 additional water-closets were provided. The Council still continue to subsidise conversion to the extent of one-half of the contract rate prevailing in 1939, thus persons carrying out conversions will receive a grant of £3 11s. 6d. towards the cost, which provides some encouragement for the improvement to be carried out. The number of each type of convenience existing at the end of 1942 was as follows:—Water-closets, 4,002; ash-closets, 1,372; privy middens, 18.

Refuse Collection and Disposal.

This work is carried out by direct labour under the supervision of the Health Department, 6 motors and 14 men being engaged in the work, and, in addition, a hired cart operating 2 days per week

to deal with certain isolated premises which are difficult of access to motor vehicles. The bulk of the refuse is disposed of at 4 tips which are controlled as far as the available supply of soil will allow, and are regularly inspected and treated for rat infestation. Little trouble is now experienced from these or from tip fires, as owing to the salvage of much waste material which previously was tipped, and which provided a large percentage of inflammable matter or material of food value to vermin, the tips are much less offensive and much easier to keep tidy. Farmers utilise a large amount of the ash for land which is being reclaimed under the extended cultivation plan, and whilst this in some cases necessitates extending the lead for tipping, it was felt to be necessary for the war effort and conserves our own tips for future use. The number of premises being scavenged at the end of 1942 was 5,234 and the approximate cost per house during the year under review was 15s. 6d. It will, therefore, be seen that despite considerable rises in labour and overhead costs, it has been possible to maintain a reasonable scavenging cost.

Salvage of Waste Materials.

A separate collection is made from house to house of all forms of waste material which have any commercial value and these are sorted and marketed. The response of the public to the scheme has been very good, and their interest has been stimulated by periodical drives and exhibitions, house to house canvass by the Women's Voluntary Organisations, and the distribution of leaflets and the exhibition of lantern slides at local cinemas. In many parts of the district a Salvage Marshall scheme is in operation and this considerably helps collection, the method being for a voluntary worker in each street or small group of houses to undertake to collect or have brought to their own yard all the neighbours' salvage and it is collected by our own men the same day. This obviates the necessity of our vehicles calling at each house for, in many cases, negligible quantities of material. School children have also proved very helpful in the scheme, and every school in the district collects waste paper and rubber. The salvage scheme has necessitated additional labour being engaged, 4 youths and 1 man being employed on the work. During the year £838 2s. 10d. was realised from the sale of waste material, the total operational cost necessitated in the collection and disposal of this being £486 17s. 3d., showing a profit of £351 5s. 7d., and it is gratifying to note that this is a

substantial improvement on the previous year's working. Income from the various sources is shown in the table hereunder, namely:—

	£	s.	d.
From sale of paper and cardboard ...	564	7	0½
From sale of rags and matting ...	71	15	11½
From sale of scrap metal and tins ...	134	0	0
From sale of bottles and jars ...	49	2	10
From sale of non-ferrous metals ...	6	0	4
From sale of rubber ...	7	18	1
From sale of bones ...	4	18	7
	<hr/>		
	£838	2	10

Summary of work done in the Sanitary Inspector's Department during the year 1942.

I. Public Health Acts.		Number of informal written Notices by Inspector.	Number of Formal Notices by order of Authority.	Number of Nuisances abated after Notice.
Dwelling-houses and Schools	Foul Conditions Structural Defects Overcrowding	6 155 1	... 28 ...	6 174 ...
Lodging-houses	...	1	...	1
Dairies and Milkshops	...	1	...	1
Cowsheds	...	10	...	10
Bakehouses	...	4	...	4
Slaughter-houses	...	...	...	...
Ashpits and Privies...	...	14	...	13
Deposits of Refuse and Manure	...	1	...	1
Waterclosets	...	111	7	116
Defective Yard Paving	...	2	1	2
House Drainage	Defective Traps ... No disconnection from sewers Other Faults	2 .. 36	.. .. 2	2 .. 38
Water Supply	...	46	1	43
Smoke Nuisances	...	6	...	7
Other Nuisances	...	...	...	...
Defective Spouts	...	17	2	21
Provision of Dust Bins	...	24	2	29
Provision of Scullery Sinks	...	5	4	9
TOTALS		467	47	502

II.—Water, Food, and Drugs.	Number	Remarks.
Samples of Water taken for Analysis ... Samples of Water condemned as unfit for use ... Seizures of Unwholesome Food ... Convictions for exposing or selling Unwholesome Food ... Samples of Food and Drugs taken for Analysis ... Samples found Adulterated ...	50 44 ...	Milk For advisory purposes
III.—Precautions against Infectious Disease. Lots of Infectious Bedding stoved or destroyed ... Houses disinfected after Infectious Disease ... Schools disinfected after Infectious Disease ... Prosecutions for exposure of infected persons or things ... Convictions for exposure of infected persons or things ...	86 79	
IV.—General. Number of New Houses erected during year ... Number of such Houses occupied during year ... Ashpit-privies converted into Ash-closets .. Ash-pit privies converted into Water-closets ... Ash-closets converted into Water-closets ... Total number of Water-closets in District.. Total number of Ash-closets in District ... Total number of Ash-pit privies in District...	... ... 1 ... 8 4002 1372 18	3 additional W.C s provided. 7 Ash-Closets demolished.

Housing.

War time conditions naturally prevented the building of houses either by this Authority or by private enterprise and it was also not found possible to obtain sanction to finish houses on the Peat Carr Estate which are left in an incomplete condition. Many families are still, therefore, living under bad conditions, in some cases in areas where clearance orders have been confirmed by the Minister for some years, and others in areas which were scheduled for clearance or compulsory purchase orders prior to the outbreak of war but in respect of which the orders were not confirmed. This position is very unfortunate in as much as the houses in question were considered unfit for human habitation some years ago and have steadily deteriorated since. These are constantly being re-inspected and it has been possible in many cases to obtain the execution of repairs which have made the houses reasonably weather tight. The execution of repairs which would make these houses even reasonably fit for habitation is not an economic proposition, nor would it be possible, of course, to carry out such works owing to war-time restrictions with regard to materials and labour.

Houses subject to orders become vacant from time to time, but demolition is not enforced, arrangements being made, wherever practicable, to fill the vacancy with a tenant who is living under even worse conditions, or with evacuated families. Many owners, however, have appreciated the impracticability of re-occupying the property and have demolished for the sake of obtaining building materials. In this respect 18 houses were demolished during the year under review and the sites were cleared.

Periodical systematic inspections are made to keep abreast with the overcrowding problem and this presents difficulties not present in peace-time due to the continual movement of the population owing to calls to National Service and Evacuation arrangements, etc., nor is it possible, of course, in present day conditions to enforce the provisions of the Housing Act with regard to overcrowding. Unfortunately, also, no houses were built prior to the war for the relief of overcrowding and we thus have our pre-war problem accentuated owing to war conditions, and it must be appreciated that owing to the natural growth in families in the intervening years the problem is becoming greater. During the year however 7 cases of overcrowding recorded in the Register were

abated. The housing position at the end of the year was as shown below, namely:—

Number of families still occupying houses which were subject to orders made prior to the war	133
Number of families occupying houses which had been scheduled for clearance prior to the war but where formal action is incomplete	278
Number of families living under overcrowded conditions ...	74
Total number of families affected	485

Shops Acts.

The Chief Sanitary Inspector also acted as Enforcement Officer under the Ministry of Food and the shops were regularly inspected, and throughout the district complied with the requirements of the Acts regarding sanitary accommodation and the necessary amenities for the comfort of shop assistants. No difficulty is experienced nowadays with regard to infringements of the closing hours requirements, as the curtailment of hours by the blackout in the winter months, shortage of labour, and the general short supply of goods has resulted in even shorter opening hours than those laid down by the Defence Orders being adopted by the majority of shopkeepers, to the benefit of the assistants.

Tents, Vans, Sheds and Camping Sites.

There are no tents, vans and sheds situated in the area and no sites used for camping, although sites which are periodically occupied by showmen as fairgrounds are supervised during their occupation.

Swimming Baths and Pools.

There are no public or privately owned swimming baths in the district, the only amenity existing in this respect being a swimming pool attached to the Boys' Club at Lyons Colliery, which has proved a great attraction and has been at all times maintained in a satisfactory sanitary condition.

Schools.

These are periodically inspected and the sanitary conditions maintained throughout the area is found to be of a very high standard, nor was it necessary during the year to close any school on account of infectious disease, as cases, fortunately, have never in the past few years reached a high incidence and have been

scattered throughout the district. Wherever a number of cases of diphtheria were found to be in one school or particular class therein, systematic swabbing of the pupils was immediately carried out.

Public Houses, Halls and Cinemas.

These premises were systematically inspected at intervals during the year and certificates issued as to their sanitary condition for the guidance of the Justices at the Brewster Sessions. Only minor repairs were necessary in certain cases as just prior to the war the whole of the premises of this nature throughout the district were systematically overhauled and in some cases completely rebuilt, a very high standard of sanitation being maintained throughout the district. As a result of action taken by the department the sanitary conveniences attached to one public house were completely reconstructed and extensive repairs also carried out to the structure of the main building.

Food Inspection.

Apart from the occasional slaughter of pigs which are killed by small-holders or farmers for their own consumption and isolated cases of casualties with consequent emergency slaughter amongst other food animals no animals are now being slaughtered in the area as centralised slaughtering has been imposed as a result of war-time conditions. Slaughter-house licences were, however, renewed annually as in previous years as the need might arise at any time, owing to enemy action, for the local slaughter houses to be put into use again, and an endeavour has also been made to get the licenced slaughter-men in the district to continue to take out their slaughtering licences as many of them are still engaged from time to time in slaughtering at the central slaughterhouse, and even those who are in other work appreciate the benefit of continuing to be licenced slaughter-men. The number of slaughter-houses on the register at the end of the year was 15 and the number of slaughter-men holding licences from this authority was 32.

The butchers' shops and slaughter-houses are, of course, still regularly inspected and are being maintained in good structural order and cleanly condition. Other food shops are also inspected regularly and as a result considerable quantities of tinned foods, bacon, butter and other perishable commodities were condemned as unfit for human consumption. No foodstuff was condemned which could

possibly be used and in many cases where bacon, butter and the like were affected licences to sell ration free were issued by arrangement with the local Food Office, in order that the commodity might be marketed before it became totally unfit and in other cases commodities were diverted to bake-houses or canteens to ensure immediate use.

The carcasses of the following food animals were examined during 1942:—

23 pigs—sound, 1 pig—casualty, sound.

The Health Department is also responsible for the decontamination of food stuffs which may be affected by poison gas or other enemy action and a large number of volunteers were enrolled for this service, it being interesting to note that Food Shops throughout the district had some representative on their staff who was trained to deal with contaminated food stuffs. It is to be regretted that owing to call-up for national service many of those so trained have had to leave the district, but, however, at the end of the year the pool of trained volunteers available was still in excess of the basic number allocated to the area for this purpose.

Milk and Dairies.

The cowsheds and dairies were regularly inspected throughout the year and samples were periodically taken from producers and dairymen for bacteriological and chemical examination for the determination of the bacterial count, coliform content and percentages of fatty and non-fatty solid contents. These samples are taken for purely advisory purposes and an endeavour is made to take a complete batch of samples as closely as possible together to ensure consistent weather conditions. The results were generally good, but where, in a few isolated cases, a sub-standard result was reported, the matter was taken up with the producer or dairyman, with a view to improving milking technique, and the instructions followed up by a further sample to check results. The standard of cleanliness and dairy technique maintained is very good, particularly having regard to war-time conditions and labour shortage. At the end of the year a drastic change was made in the milk distribution method throughout the district by the formation of a war-time Dairymen's Pool. This resulted in the introduction of certain milks from outside sources which may not, from samples taken, prove to be satisfactory in the summer months. The scheme

was 'apparently inaugurated with the intention of saving transport but I fail to see how this is achieved as milk is being brought into the district from places many miles away, and large quantities of milk of accredited standard produced within the area is being sent out of the district to pasteurisation plants. The pool milk, however, is being systematically sampled at least once a fortnight. During the year 44 samples were submitted for examination and 35 of these were found to comply with the standard set for accredited milk. The number of producers on the register at the end of the year was 12. As towards the end of 1942 the existing retailers were merged into the local Dairymen's Association, only this organisation and the Co-operative Societies, who deal entirely in pasteurised milk, were retailing in the area, but up to the time of pooling the number of retailers registered was 18 and in addition 6 distributor's supplementary licences under the Milk (Special Designation) Order were in force during 1942 for persons who were selling graded milks by retail in the district.

Factories and Workshops.

These premises were regularly inspected with a view to obtaining compliance with the requirements of the Act and the various orders applicable thereto. The following table shows the amount of work carried out by the Department in this respect, which included a complete block of sanitary conveniences which were provided at one factory.

1—Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health.

INCLUDING INSPECTIONS MADE BY SANITARY INSPECTORS.

Premises (1)	Number of		
	Inspections (2)	Written Notices (3)	Occupiers prosecuted (4)
Factories with mechanical power ...	11	3	...
Factories without mechanical power...	32	9	...
†Other Premises under the Act (including works of building and engineering construction but not including out-workers' premises).	6	1	...
†Electrical Stations should be reckoned as factories. Total	49	13	...

2—Defects found.

Particulars (1)	Number of Defects			Number of defects in respect of which Prosecutions were instituted (5)
	Found (2)	Remedied (3)	Referred to H.M. Inspector (4)	
Want of cleanliness (S1) ...	4	4	...	...
Overcrowding (S2) ...	...	...	...	...
Unreasonable Temperature (S3)	1	1	...	...
Inadequate ventilation (S4) ...	1	1	...	1
Ineffective drainage of floors (S6)	2	2	...	...
Sanitary conveniences (S7):—				
Insufficient ...	1	1	...	...
Unsuitable or defective ...	...	...	...	...
Not separate for sexes ...	1	...	...	...
Other offences ...	...	...	...	...
(Not including offences relating to Home Work or offences under the Sections mentioned in the Schedule to the Ministry of Health (Factories & Workshops Transfer of Powers) Order 1921, and re-enacted in the Third Schedule to the Factories Act, 1937.)				
Total ...	10	9	...	1

Bakehouses.

At the end of 1942 there were 6 retail bakehouses in operation in the district and these were periodically inspected and a satisfactory standard of cleanliness was found to be maintained although occasionally it was necessary to draw the attention of the proprietor to the requirements of the Acts with regard to periodical cleansing of the premises and these intimations received prompt attention.

Eradication of Bed-bugs and Vermin.

During the year under review action was taken for the eradication of bed-bugs and other vermin in the undermentioned premises:—

(a) Council Houses	...	...	...	...	...	40
(b) Private Dwellings	...	...	...	...	...	31

With one exception these houses were not seriously infested and were successfully disinfested after treatment by fumigation and thorough spraying with an approved insecticide. The isolated case which was badly infested was also cleared after a considerable amount of work. Treatment is generally carried out on three occasions, firstly, to eradicate existing vermin; secondly, to kill vermin which have subsequently incubated; and thirdly, to ensure positive eradication. Even after these precautions one cannot be sure that the premises are freed unless the tenant makes some effort to prevent re-infestation and subsequent visits are made to ensure that this has not taken place. Probably the greatest cause of infestation is the importation of second-hand furniture into the household which can quickly cause a major infestation if steps are not promptly taken. Experiments are continually in progress with a view to obtaining a completely satisfactory insecticide; which means one that is not only effective in killing vermin but does a minimum amount of damage by staining, etc., to the decorations and tenants' effects. The material at present in use is found to be eminently satisfactory and is still in ample supply despite war-time conditions.

Prevalence of, and Control over Infectious and other Diseases.

During the year 1942 some 430 cases of infectious diseases including all forms of Tuberculosis were notified as occurring in the district. This shows a considerable decrease on the figure for 1941, which was 907. This is chiefly due to the smaller number of notifications of measles and whooping cough. 290 and 5 respectively, compared with 617 and 128 in 1941.

Scarlet Fever.

There were 42 cases of Scarlet Fever in the district compared with 25 in 1941.

Of these 41 were isolated in hospital. The district is not particularly suitable for home nursing of such infectious diseases for, although statistics do not show a large amount of overcrowding, yet the present standard for overcrowding demands a kitchen to be included as a living room and this means that in many cases which are not stated to be overcrowded, it is nevertheless completely impossible to give a sick person a bedroom to his or herself. For the same reason it has been found impracticable to shorten the duration of stay in hospital since the patient cannot be guaranteed a separate bed, etc., on discharge. Return cases are practically unknown when patients are isolated for six weeks, but more frequently occurred when the stay in hospital was shortened, or if the patient was released early when nursed at home.

During the year shortening of the period of isolation was tried again and immediately was followed by a fresh (return case) from the same house.

Three cases of puerperal pyrexia were notified and there was no history of any relationship with scarlet fever, or sore throat without rash.

The case incidence for the district is 2.38 per 1000 population, that for England and Wales being 2.19.

The case incidence for the various wards is 1.88 Hetton, 1.99 Hetton Downs, 3.61 Easington Lane, and 1.46 for Moorsley and Rainton, each per 1000 population.

Diphtheria.

There were 20 cases of diphtheria in the district during 1942 as compared with 16 cases in 1941. All these cases were isolated in the Rainton Bridge Isolation Hospital.

Some of the cases were acutely ill on admission and there were 2 deaths. Antitoxin is supplied free to doctors for use in their practices, and advantage is taken of this service, since it is frequently given in cases of doubt whilst waiting for the bacteriological report. It may be obtained at the Health Department.

The County Council pay for the examination of swabs which are sent by medical practitioners to the Public Health Laboratory, Armstrong College, Newcastle-on-Tyne.

The case incidence of diphtheria in the district was 1.13 as compared with 1.05 for England and Wales.

The case incidence in the Wards is Hetton .62, Hetton Downs 1.08, Easington Lane 1.9, and Rainton and Moorsley .48 per 1000 population.

Diphtheria Immunisation.

In the year under consideration in this report (1942), 331 children under 5 years and 470 between 5 and 15 years were treated the position at the 31st December, 1942, being that approximately 27.53 per cent of children under 5 years and 63.10 per cent of those between 5 and 15 years had received treatment.

During the year 16 cases of diphtheria were notified; three of whom had been previously immunised—2 in 1938 and 1 in 1940. It is now definitely recognised that immunity begins to wane through time and it is desirable that children who have been previously treated should have at least a single injection any time three years after the first treatment.

Influenza.

Mild cases were fairly numerous as usual at the beginning and end of the year, but no death was certified as being due to this cause.

Measles, Whooping Cough, Pneumonia and Erysipelas.

The epidemic of measles which commenced at the beginning of 1941 continued during that year and has gradually tapered off during 1942, during which latter year there were no deaths.

No local action has been taken in the use of measles serum for prevention or attenuation of the disease.

Whooping-cough epidemic the previous year was conspicuous by its absence in 1942, only 5 cases being notified.

No case of measles or whooping cough was admitted to the isolation hospital as such. There is no doubt that hospital treatment in complicated cases of measles or whooping cough is of the greatest value. When accommodation is available in the Isolation Hospital these cases can be admitted.

The number of cases of pneumonia notified showed a definite decrease, whilst erysipelas remained approximately the same, there being 34 cases of pneumonia and 12 cases of erysipelas notified during 1942, as against 58 and 14 respectively in 1941. The case rate for pneumonia and erysipelas and the distribution thereof is shown in the tables hereafter.

The very small number of deaths due to pneumonia (2) is noteworthy and very satisfactory and is almost certainly due to the newer method of treatment.

Notifiable Diseases during the Year 1942.

The incidence of certain infectious diseases as notified in the district during the period under consideration, the number of cases which received treatment in hospital and the number of deaths from such infectious diseases is shown in the following table.

Notifiable Diseases (other than Tuberculosis) during 1942.

Disease				Total Cases Notified	Cases Admitted to Hospital	Total Deaths
Smallpox	..	..	..	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever	..	..	..	42	41	—
Diphtheria	..	..	..	20	20	2
Enteric Fever (includ. Paratyphoid)				—	—	—
Puerperal Fever	..	..	..	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	..	..	..	3	—	—
Erysipelas	..	..	..	12	—	—
Pneumonia	..	..	..	34	—	2
Ophthalmia neonatorum	..	..	..	2	—	—
TOTALS	..	..	..	113	61	4

The following table shows the following important facts, viz.:— the age incidence of the cases of each of the various diseases including all forms of tuberculosis, the sex and age incidence of cases of pulmonary and non-pulmonary tuberculosis, and the incidence of each disease in every Ward.

Cases of Infectious Diseases Notified during the 52 weeks ended 2nd January, 1943.

Notifiable Disease	Number of Cases Notified												Total No. of Cases Notified in Each Ward					Cases Removed to Hospital.	No. per 1000 Population	
	At Ages—Years												Hetton	Hetton Downs	Easington Lane	Moorsley & Rainton				
	Under 1	1-2	2-3	3-4	4-5	5-10	10-15	15-20	20-35	35-45	45-65	65 and over					Total			
Scarlet Fever	...	1	4	6	2	21	4	2	1	...	...	...	42	9	11	19	3	42	41	2.38
Diphtheria	...	1	...	...	2	8	5	2	2	...	...	...	20	3	6	10	1	20	20	1.13
Puerperal Pyrexia	2	1	...	...	3	2	...	...	...	3	...	...
Pneumonia	...	4	4	3	1	6	...	3	2	1	7	1	34	12	5	14	3	34	...	1.93
Erysipelas	2	...	...	...	...	...	2	1	7	2	12	2	2	6	4	12	1	0.68
Pulmonar Tuberculosis } Male	1	...	...	1	2	2	2	...	8	2	3	3	...	8	...	...
Non-Pulmonary } Female	1	...	2	2	1	...	...	5	2	1	2	...	5	...	...
Tuberculosis } Male	1	2	...	...	...	...	1	...	3	1	1	1	...	3	...	...
Non-Pulmonary } Female	1	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	5	2	1	2	...	5	...	...
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	1	...	1	2	...	0.11
Acute Encephalitis Lethargica	1	...	1	0.06
Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	...
Typhoid Fever
Para-Typhoid Fever
Small Pox
Dysentery
Measles	...	4	21	28	44	147	3	...	2	...	...	...	290	97	88	97	8	290	...	16.44
Whooping Cough	...	1	...	1	2	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	5	1	3	...	1	5	...	0.82
Totals	13	26	35	56	48	186	13	10	17	6	17	3	430	133	122	154	21	430	63	

New Cases and Mortality during 1942.

13 cases of pulmonary tuberculosis, being 8 males and 5 females were notified or came to notice during the year, also 8 cases of non-pulmonary tuberculosis being 3 males and 5 females. In 1941 there were 21 cases of pulmonary tuberculosis being 11 males and 10 females, and 12 cases of non-pulmonary forms being 8 males and 4 females notified.

The following table shows the distribution of pulmonary and non-pulmonary cases of tuberculosis notified in 1942 according to sex and ward.

Ward	Pulmonary Tuberculosis		Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis		Totals
	M.	F.	M.	F.	
Hetton ...	2	2	1	2	7
Hetton Downs	3	1	1	1	6
Eas. Lane ...	3	2	1	2	8
Moorsley & Rainton	0	0	0	0	0
Totals ...	8	5	3	5	21

The following table shows the various age-periods, for males and females, at which the new cases were notified and when death occurred.

Age Period		New Cases				Deaths			
		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
		M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Under 1 year	..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1—2	..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
2—3	..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
3—4	..	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
4—5	..	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
5—10	..	—	—	1	1	—	—	1	—
10—15	..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15—25	..	1	4	—	1	1	2	—	1
25—35	..	2	—	—	2	1	—	—	1
35—45	..	2	1	—	—	4	1	—	—
45—65	..	2	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
65 and over	..	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
TOTALS	..	8	5	3	5	6	4	1	2

Site of Lesions in Non-Pulmonary Cases.

6 cervical glands, 1 abdomen and 1 dorsal vertebrae.

Notification of Tuberculosis.

This seems to have been greatly improved within the past few years. Practitioners realise it is a duty and the patient or friends have learnt that notification is actually to help them since the sooner the County authorities know, the sooner they can help in treatment.

Examination of Sputa.

Sputa specimens are examined in the Public Health Laboratory, Newcastle, the County Council paying the charge therefor.

